

## PROPERTY TAX APPEAL BOARD'S DECISION

APPELLANT: Stephens Wasko  
DOCKET NO.: 01-23136.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 05-33-201-024-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Stephens Wasko, the appellant, by attorney Patrick J. Cullerton of Thompson Coburn Fagel Haber, and the Cook County Board of Review.

The subject property consists of a 49-year-old, two-story, single-family dwelling of frame and masonry construction containing 2,413 square feet of living area and located in New Trier Township, Cook County. Features of the residence include two and one-half bathrooms, a full-unfinished basement, air-conditioning, a fireplace and a two-car detached garage.

The appellant, through counsel, submitted evidence before the Property Tax Appeal Board arguing unequal treatment in the assessment process of the improvement as the basis of the appeal. In support of this claim, the appellant submitted assessment data and descriptive information on nine properties suggested as comparable to the subject. The appellant also submitted a one-page brief, a photograph of the subject, a location map and a copy of the board of review's decision. Based on the appellant's documents, the nine suggested comparables consist of two-story, single-family dwellings of frame, masonry or frame and masonry construction with the same neighborhood code as the subject. One comparable is located on the same street as the subject. The improvements range in size from 2,134 to 2,934 square feet of living area and range in age from four to 58 years. The comparables contain from one to two and one-half bathrooms and a finished or unfinished basement. Six comparables contain air-conditioning and five comparables have a fireplace. No garage descriptions were provided. The improvement assessments range from \$16.85 to \$19.01 per square foot of living area. Based on

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Based on the facts and exhibits presented, the Property Tax Appeal Board hereby finds a reduction in the assessment of the property as established by the Cook County Board of Review is warranted. The correct assessed valuation of the property is:

LAND: \$ 12,053  
IMPR.: \$ 45,509  
TOTAL: \$ 57,562

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

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the evidence submitted, the appellant requested a total assessment of \$56,694, with an improvement assessment of \$44,641 or \$18.50 per square foot of living area and a land assessment to remain unchanged at \$12,053.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the subject's total assessment of \$63,128. The subject's improvement assessment is \$51,075 or \$21.17 per square foot of living area. In support of the assessment the board submitted property characteristic printouts and descriptive data on three properties suggested as comparable to the subject. The suggested comparables are improved with two-story, single-family dwellings of frame construction located within one block of the subject. The improvements range in size from 3,029 to 3,088 square feet of living area and range in age from two to four years. The comparables contain from two and one-half to four and one-half bathrooms, a full-finished or unfinished basement, air-conditioning, one or two fireplaces and a two-car detached garage. The improvement assessments range from \$23.05 to \$27.56 per square foot of living area.

After reviewing the record and considering the evidence, the Property Tax Appeal Board finds that it has jurisdiction over the parties and the subject matter of this appeal. The appellant's argument was unequal treatment in the assessment process. The Illinois Supreme Court has held that taxpayers who object to an assessment on the basis of lack of uniformity bear the burden of proving the disparity of assessment valuations by clear and convincing evidence. Kankakee County Board of Review V. Property Tax Appeal Board, 131 Ill.2d 1 (1989). The evidence must demonstrate a consistent pattern of assessment inequities within the assessment jurisdiction. After an analysis of the assessment data, the Board finds the appellant has overcome this burden.

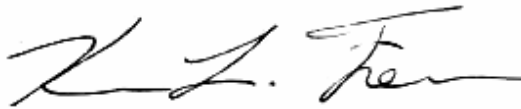
The Board finds the appellant's comparables one, two and three to be the most similar properties to the subject in the record. These three properties are similar to the subject in improvement size, amenities, age and location have improvement assessments ranging from \$17.29 to \$18.86 per square foot of living area. The subject's per square foot improvement assessment of \$21.17 falls above the range established by these properties. The Board finds the appellant's remaining comparables less similar to the subject in improvement size, age, amenities and/or construction. The board of review's comparables are accorded less weight because they range in age from two to four years, whereas, the subject is 49 years old. In addition, they differ from the subject in improvement size and exterior construction. After considering adjustments and the differences in both parties' suggested comparables when compared to the subject, the Board finds the subject's per square foot improvement assessment is not supported by the most similar properties contained in the record

As a result of this analysis, the Property Tax Appeal Board finds the appellant has adequately demonstrated that the subject dwelling was inequitably assessed by clear and convincing evidence and a reduction is warranted.

This is a final administrative decision of the Property Tax Appeal Board which is subject to review in the Circuit Court or Appellate Court under the provisions of the Administrative Review Law (735 ILCS 5/3-101 et seq.) and section 16-195 of the Property Tax Code.




Chairman



Member



Member



Member



Member

DISSENTING: \_\_\_\_\_

C E R T I F I C A T I O N

As Clerk of the Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board and the keeper of the Records thereof, I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true, full and complete Final Administrative Decision of the Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board issued this date in the above entitled appeal, now of record in this said office.

Date: June 27, 2008



Clerk of the Property Tax Appeal Board

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

Section 16-185 of the Property Tax Code provides in part:

"If the Property Tax Appeal Board renders a decision lowering the assessment of a particular parcel after the deadline for filing complaints with the Board of Review or after adjournment of the session of the Board of Review at which assessments for the subsequent year are being considered, the taxpayer may, within 30 days after the date of written notice of the Property Tax Appeal Board's decision, appeal the assessment for the subsequent year directly to the Property Tax Appeal Board."

In order to comply with the above provision, YOU MUST FILE A PETITION AND EVIDENCE WITH THE PROPERTY TAX APPEAL BOARD WITHIN 30 DAYS OF THE DATE OF THE ENCLOSED DECISION IN ORDER TO APPEAL THE ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPERTY FOR THE SUBSEQUENT YEAR.

Based upon the issuance of a lowered assessment by the Property Tax Appeal Board, the refund of paid property taxes is the responsibility of your County Treasurer. Please contact that office with any questions you may have regarding the refund of paid property taxes.